

Indian Chieftain.

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HARVEY W. C. SHELTON, Editor.
M. E. MILFORD, Manager.

VINITA, IND. TER., FEB. 20, 1890.

Of all the papers published in the Indian Territory (some 40 or 50) THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN is the only one considered of sufficient importance by Geo. P. Russell & Co., the well known advertising agents, of New York, to be given a place in their list of "Preferred Newspapers," published in January 1890. The attention of advertisers and the public generally is respectfully called to this fact.

The president has issued a proclamation directing the removal of all cattle from the Strip by Oct. 1, and sooner should the present negotiations be successfully concluded.

As inter-state cattle convention has been called to meet at Fort Worth upon the 11th of March. The object is to ascertain the cause of the low prices of beef and, if possible, remedy the difficulty.

The best thing council can do is to abolish per capita payments and use the money for better purposes. Practically, the present system of borrowing the money has abolished it, but it is a sort of underhanded way that does not smack of honor.

ROBT. B. ROSS is frequently mentioned as the coming man for chief on the National ticket, but he will never get that position by a vote of the people. That eight thousand dollars commission for leasing the strip for three months will prove a mill-stone around his political neck.

MANY people, but not the majority, wish J. B. Mayes to succeed himself as the next chief. Several obstacles are in his way, among which are, his agreeing that a full-blood Cherokee should be nominated this time; his appointments, and the reforms he was going to make but never did.

JUST NOW THE CHIEFTAIN is not engaged in the "photo and pen sketch work" business but there is in this office a rare collection of Lydia Pinkham, W. L. Douglass and "before and after taking" cuts which the Arrow is welcome to the use of for its "coming illustrated edition." The reading matter can be changed and they will answer the purpose admirably. Gigantic enterprises of this character are deserving of every encouragement.

THE Telephone, among other names, gives that of Hon. L. B. Bell as one of the men liable to be the Downing nominee for chief at the next convention. He has been known as a liberal, progressive man. It was proved clearly that he was a liberal man last council when the "wind bill," the bill to pay out per capita, was introduced, for he introduced an amendment that all citizens, regardless of race, should share equally in the payment. People can afford to be liberal when there is nothing to give.

NEXT to Vinita no town in the territory has more natural advantages or a better location than Claremore. Claremore will be one of the most important towns in the country. Already it is a thriving, pushing little place, full of business and business men. Since the completion of the Valley road, improvement has been rapid; grist mills, lumber yards and stores have gone up to meet the demands of traffic. The country round about the little city is fast settling up and prosperity is evident everywhere.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION.

It is said that figures do not lie, yet it must be said they out-queer capers sometimes. For instance, some Arrow correspondent recently arranged a lot of figures and statistics showing that the nation is falling in debt heavily and that it will fall about ninety-three thousand dollars short this year—dollars not true, though there will be a shortage of some thousands of dollars. On the other hand, a good administration man proves very satisfactorily, to his own kind, that the financial condition of the country is exceedingly good; that the nation is in better condition now than it has been for years, and that all obligations can be promptly met. This statement is also to be taken with due allowance, as is evident from the fact that officers cannot draw their salaries till next year. The financial condition of the country is not so good, and it is not right to say otherwise. The truth should be told frankly. The amount received annually for the support of the schools is too small by far;

council spends about twice as much as it ought and other expenses are incurred for which no appropriation has been made. Larger school and general funds must be provided, else it will be necessary to resort either to taxation or to use the proceeds of the lease for governmental purposes. Rental of two hundred thousand dollars is paid annually into the treasury; and according to law this money should be paid out per capita whenever the money accumulated shall amount to three hundred thousand dollars. The last payment was in 1886 and it is not likely there will be a payment this year, because there is only two hundred thousand dollars of lease funds in the treasury. What has gone with the money? It has been borrowed to meet the expenses of running the government. Now something is wrong, and men from each party are figuring away at it, neither one being very anxious to tell the plain truth, because it must then be known that there is not money enough coming from the various sources to run the government without using the lease money. It will be known that per capita payments must be stopped or taxation taken up. The question of the finances of the Cherokee nation should be settled and settled at once. How much better it would have been, had those zealous legislators set themselves to work to settle this question instead of wasting their time introducing bills to pay out per capita when there was no money in the treasury.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 11, 1890.

EDITOR CHIEFTAIN:—It may be interesting to your readers to learn what the times and indications portend here, so I will give you a short chapter on probabilities as they relate to the Indian Territory and to Indian matters.

There is nothing just now more ominous than the establishment of the numerous courts in the territory, as provided in the Springer bill. The ugly appearances are in the excessive jurisdiction of the courts and the enforcement of laws of which the natives of the country are wholly ignorant. What the bill proposes in the establishment of the courts, no far-seeing man will fail to discover to be aggressive and progressive in their tendencies, and that in their gradual invasion of the old order of things and usurpation of native authority are not only possible but probable, to say the least. Comparatively it is a conquest of a country and subjugation of a people by a hostile invasion by foreign laws which in their execution are to be applied according to the definition the general of the invading forces may be pleased to put upon them.

The jurisdiction of these courts will certainly never grow less, nor remain fixed as to limits. The wedge is partly in and is being gradually driven home. The establishment of the court at Muskogee by an act of last congress, and those that are to be, with increased jurisdiction, is undeniable proof of this. A sure way and one more ultimate in its efforts could not be better devised, under any plea of right or privilege.

It is like kicking against pricks to remonstrate against such measures, when you are confronted by the assertion that it is no usurpation of privilege, but treaty right. Jurisdiction may be so defined that the Indian governments may exercise control of all specifically theirs, yet constructions in the nice discriminations between the rights of the nations and the rights of the United States will always be in favor of the latter. Conflict and unaccommodating conditions, and the ill temper of harassing relations will certainly have their tendencies.

These reflections are occasioned by looking over Mr. Springer's bill to organize the territory of Oklahoma and to establish courts in the Indian Territory, which has been amended and printed several times. I have just been to the committee room of the house committee on territories where I was presented with a copy by Mr. Springer himself. This bill closes further consideration of the subjects that are proposed to be effected.

It divides the Indian territory into three judicial districts. The first consists of the Indian tribes in the Quapaw agency, the Cherokee country east of the 96th meridian and the Creek nation, with district courts at Vinita and Muskogee. The second, of the Choctaw country, with a court at Atoka. The third, of the Chickasaw and Seminole nations, with courts at Ardmore and Purcell. These courts have exclusive original jurisdiction within their respective districts. In addition to these there is to be one supreme court to which appeals may be made, and if the matter in controversy is of such a nature, from it to the su-

preme court of the United States. Civil cases over which the tribal courts have no jurisdiction are to be tried by these courts, and all cases, civil or criminal, over which jurisdiction is confined by this act or any other act of congress, which are "crimes against justice," which seems to mean almost anything, controversies arising between a member of one nation and a member of another; the rights of citizenship, with the right of appeal to the supreme court of the United States, and a host of undefined crimes and misdemeanors to be learned from certain laws of Arkansas.

No attachments are to issue against improvements on real estate while the title thereto is in any Indian nation, except such as have been made by persons, companies, or corporations operating coal or other mines, railroads or other industries.

Judgments are not to be void for the sale or conveyance of title to improvements made on Indian lands, except in the cases recited. No nation is to be deprived of its jurisdiction over cases where members of any nation, whether by treaty, blood, or adoption, are the sole parties.

We had eighteen amendments, great and small added to the bill, and yet it does not suit us. There are yet some serious objections to it, some of which we may succeed in amending, but as far as the house committee on territories they are now beyond our reach.

Speed, of the Fairchild commission, has complimented the people of the Cherokee nation very highly by calling them a "lot of G-d-d-whelps." Guess some of them will try his Speed, should he ever go down there again.

Respectfully,

JOHN L. ADAIR.

THE CHIEF ALWAYS RIGHT.

Such is Apparently Mr. Cunningham's Belief.

TABLET, Feb. 18th, 1890.

EDITOR CHIEFTAIN:—Allow me to say through the columns of your paper that it does an honest and good to the heart to read the recent speeches of Senators Dawes, Teller and Ingalls on the Cherokee strip question. They stand up before the world in the United States senate, the most august body on the face of the earth, with clear consciences, and with judgment and ability that no one can doubt, assert our title to this land in fee simple and boldly declare that this land is worth from five to ten dollars per acre and that the Cherokees should be paid that price for it. Please note the sarcasm of that great senator from Massachusetts when he says that the Cherokee commission came down to the Cherokee nation with negotiations in one hand and the sword in the other. He denounces such practices. An idea occurs to us of something in Uncle Joel's message to the national council last session when he says (I quote from memory) if the Cherokees should ever sell this land it should be done with their free and voluntary consent, untrammelled, without being bulldozed into a sale, knowing that they are parting with piece of property that rightfully belongs to them, and at a price equal to its full market value. Will you call this stubbornness as many of his enemies say, or will you call it care, judgment and foresight? It takes a man of great nerve and judgment to wield the affairs of a nation.

The same cry was made when the strip lands were leased: "If you don't take one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, we won't get anything. The cattle-men will get mad and leave." We did not take it and to-day we are realizing two hundred thousand dollars per annum, all owing to this so-called stubbornness of our chief. The cry of our treasury is: Bankruptcy would have been seventy-five thousand dollars per annum greater than it is, if that national council two years ago had succeeded in leasing the land for one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars.

Respectfully,

J. T. CUNNINGHAM.

INGALLS'S SPEECH.

He Denounces the Attempt to Extend a Territorial Bill Over the Outlet.

The following clipping from Senator Ingalls' speech on the Oklahoma bill now up for discussion, was sent to THE CHIEFTAIN by Mr. Bryan, who is now in Washington. The speech is pithy, vigorous and just a speech that will make for him hosts of admirers in the Indian country—yes, and every other country where honor is cherished and just deeds applauded: "I had not long ceased to feel amazement at anything, at the statements and concessions made by the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Dawes] and the senator from Connecticut [Mr. Platt] in this debate, the declaration that it was

necessary for the United States to take possession of the Cherokee reservation, that their land stood in the way of civilization, and like the vineyard in the scriptures, we had to take it whether the owners consented or not.

Mr. president, more than half a century ago the Cherokee nation surrendered an empire in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, where they were rightfully established, and were located beyond the Mississippi in a region as remote as Alaska is to-day from New York, under the solemn pledge and promise of the United States, with every sanction that could be attached, that they should be protected and defended in that possession so long as grass should grow and water run and time should endure.

Not only did they hold that reservation by ordinary treaty stipulation, but the United States government gave them a parchment title to it. It was written out, so many acres of land, by such and such metes and bounds, upon parchment, and there were attached to it the seal and sign manual of the executive officers of the government. It is a title that is as sacred, a guaranty that is as binding as that by which any man in this body holds the title to his home or to his homestead. There, sir, fifteen or twenty thousand people have since that time lived in the pursuit of the arts of peace and in the enjoyment of the institutions of civilized life. They are not savages and barbarians; they have a system of laws of their own; they have a literature of their own; they have an alphabet and a language of their own; they publish newspapers in their own language; they educate the young of both sexes in schools and colleges of the highest grade. Chosen youths from these institutions are annually sent to receive the benefits of the highest education in the colleges of New England and the east.

Mr. President, when those people under that guaranty from the government of the United States thus occupying that land have solved the problem of civilization, with their own laws and jurisdiction, with their own literature, with their own civil and educational institutions, are we to be told that because we are 55,000,000 and they are 15,000 or 20,000, we have a right to take possession of their property because white men want it? I say not, Mr. President. I say not. They have established some claim to recognition as a dependent civilized nation to whom we are under the most solemn obligations of plighted faith. They are not dependent upon the government of the United States. They are not blanketed and roaming tribes. They have millions of money in our treasury upon which we are paying them annually the interest that belongs to them. We make no appropriations for their support. They are capable of self-government. They pay more annually per capita out of their own resources for the education of their young of both sexes than is paid, sir, by the people of your state [Mr. Hale in the chair] or mine. Yet we are told in this highest tribunal that represents the conscience and the convictions of the American people, that because there is a clamor for more land we have a right to say to these people, 'We need your territory and you have got to sell it to us for whatever we see fit to give you.' It has been said so here. The senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Dawes] asks me who says that. It has been repeatedly intimated in this debate to-day that the title of these Indians has got to be relinquished and they might as well understand it now as at any time; and when any man stands here or elsewhere and demands justice for these people we are taunted with the idea that behind us stalks the cattle baron or the monopoly or the ring, and that there is some sinister, culpable, and corrupt design that protects these people in the enjoyment of their rights.

I protest against it, Mr. President. It is the enunciation of a doctrine which shocks the moral sense of mankind, that when we have been endeavoring here for two centuries and a half to settle the Indian question, when we have been instructed that the highest civilization demanded us to treat the Indians with justice, and when we have got the Indian question settled so far as these people are concerned and they are engaged in agriculture, in commerce, in manufactures, in the pursuits of all the arts of peace, we are to say to them, 'You have got to relinquish this land that you acquired when you surrendered the empire in Mississippi, and in Alabama, and in Georgia, and go, God knows where.'

Sir, these doctrines ought not to be entertained here. The Cherokee people ought not to be subjected to this continual menace and threat. They ought to understand, and they shall understand, so far

as my voice can make them understand it, that they have the title to their lands and that they are not compelled to sell them for a dollar and a quarter an acre when they are worth \$10. It is in evidence, Mr. President, that competent and responsible people are willing to pay them five times what they have been offered by the commission. They have just as much right to the enhanced value of their possessions, they have just as much right to the increment of their property as any senator or member of congress, or any American citizen has a right to what has been gained by the result of his own efforts and his own enterprise.

THE TERRITORIAL BILL.

Several Senators Speak for Cherokee Rights.

From Friday's Globe-Democrat, are taken the following notes on speeches made by different senators on the Oklahoma bill. It is evident that the territory of the five civilized tribes will not be included in the bill, neither will No "Man's Land."

Mr. Dawes opposed the amendment, although he said he agreed with the senator from Missouri as to the importance and inevitability of the Cherokee outlet becoming soon a part of the public domain—and to become so, not by spoliation, but by reasonable and fair compensation. He believed that that end could have been accomplished long ago, and could have been accomplished last summer if there had not been threats mingled with the negotiations. There had been held up to the Indians negotiations in the one hand and a sword in the other. That had been the radical defect in all negotiations with the Indians. It had been announced within the last six months by those who had been sent to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians that unless they accepted the proposition to part with their land at \$1.25 an acre the land would be taken from them; and a distinguished statesman had thrown out the idea (as if it would help the negotiations) that it was within the power of the United States to condemn the land for public uses. He added that he had also seen in a newspaper that the secretary of the interior had supplemented that threat by a statement that the Cherokees had no title at all.

Mr. Jones defended the commission. He did not believe it had threatened the Cherokees in any way. Mr. Platt remarked that when it became evident that the Cherokee nation was determined not to cede the land, but to hold it, because they were backed up by cattle-men or others, he did not believe that there was a member of the senate or of the house who would not be ready to say that if that were the position that the Cherokee nation occupied, the United States would be justified in abrogating the treaty and taking the land. Mr. Teller said the Cherokees could not be divested of a fee title by legislative action. He was astonished by the suggestion of Mr. Platt. He realized that the lands held by the Cherokee Indians would have to become the homes of white men; but the Indians would have to be paid what the lands were worth. The lands in the Cherokee outlet could be sold to-morrow in bulk at \$5 per acre; and what right, he asked, had the United States to say that the Indians should part with them at a price less than their value? If the government could not afford to pay a fair price, and give away the land, it should buy it from the Indians and sell it to the settlers. Mr. Ingalls opposed the amendment. The imputations that had been cast upon the social conditions in No Man's Land and Oklahoma in this debate were not borne out by history. They were not places of refuge for convicts, criminals and malefactors. On the contrary, during the past six or eight months those communities had been in existence, they had furnished additional proof of the capacity of the American people for self-government. Without any organized institutions, without statutes, without force, without any of the ordinary appliances of government, they had maintained themselves in a condition of social order that might be an example to surrounding communities. He had been surprised at the statements and concessions made by Mr. Dawes and Mr. Platt that it might be necessary for the United States to take possession of the Cherokee reservation; that their lands stood in the way of civilization. The senate, which represented the conscience and convictions of the American people, was told that, because there was a clamor for more land, the government had a right to say to that people that their lands were needed, and that they had to sell them for whatever the government saw fit to pay for them. And when any man stood up in the senate or

elsewhere and demanded justice for that people, he was taunted with the insinuation that he was acting in the interest of the cattle baron, or of a monopoly, or a ring, or that there was some sinister and culpable and corrupt motive for his action. He (Mr. Ingalls) protested against the proposition. It was the enunciation of a doctrine that shocked the moral sense of mankind. Such a doctrine ought not to be entertained in the senate. The Cherokees ought not to be subjected to menaces and threats. They ought to understand, and should understand, so far as his voice could make them do so, that they had a title to their land, and that they were not compelled to sell at \$1.25 an acre when it was worth \$10. The bill went over till to-morrow without action on the amendment as to No Man's Land.

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